

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Claim 12 has been amended to describe the "partial" flow through the passage in an intermediate position of the drain tube. This feature is described in the original application text as follows:

"procedure which allow the discharge of liquid to be partialised and, therefore, to be controlled" (orig. spec. p. 3, l. 8-9);

"the partialisation is accompanied by the variation of the inclination of the tube" (orig. spec. p. 3, l. 19-20); and

"Advantageously, if the tube is only partially rotated, without taking the shutter in perfect alignment with the recess of the tube 12, the flow of oil discharged can be partialised." (orig. spec. p. 6, l. 15-18).

Nothing in US 4,850,540 of Taniguchi suggests such volume control of the flow via the valve shown there. In Taniguchi the valves are simple on-off systems used to enable or disable flow; the system of this invention allows the flow to be made partial or

controlled. Thus amended claim 12 clearly defines over this reference.

US 2001/0054538 of Rigney represents only the admitted prior art. Here a fryer has at its lower end a standard valve that will inevitable drip for a bit after closed.

No-one has a valve with a tube that can be angled into a downwardly inclined position, nor one usable to control the volume of flow through it. Thus the instant invention is allowable over the cited art under §103.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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Enclosure: None.